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DCI Notes 1 August 78

REVIEW OF LEBANESE SITUATION

More fighting likely as result of near term issues raised by Jumayyil's determination to take offensive against Syrians & his murder of younger Franjiyah

Not clear we, anyone else, can dampen explosiveness of situation

Scorecard chart -- brings out incompatibilities:

Christians -- Domination --

Unacceptable to Muslims/Palestinians

Either Domination or Partition

Unacceptable to Syrians - Domination - threat or flank - Partition - Prestige of Assad - '75/'76 objectives

Syrians - Feel compelled control or eliminate Christian militias

Phologo - defeat surians

Israelis - Protect northern flank from raids/attacks

See Syrian/Palestinian domination as threat - determined to neutralize

Directions

- 1. Negotiation
- 2. Partition
- 3. Canton
- A. More of same
- 5. Renewed fighting
- 1. Incompatibility so stark makes <u>negotiation</u> unlikely

Plus Sarkis gov't too weak - cautious to point of paralysis - to be catalytic force behind some comprehensive peace plan

Moderate elements less forceful - though if Jumayyil were murdered in revenge might be less radical pressure

-1-

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2. <u>Partition</u> could be one result of negotiation - possible long term solution

Possible attractiveness of some form of Palestinian homeland

Even if could negot - intractable problem of boundaries - Greens/Browns

Compounded by Israeli insistence on Christian buffer zone -

No way to connect to rest

Basic Syrian objection

Cantons

Swiss model -

On paper looks good -

Central gov't - defense, for affairs

Cantonal antonomy, including local militia security

Borders difficult

External arbitration?

Probably require imposition by external force

Who? no likely candidates

Probably degenerate into partition

Syrians see coming

4. More likely - Renewed fighting

Appears likely Christians - at least Bashir Jumayyil - will continue provoke a showdown w/Syrians

Persuaded must get Syrians out

If Assad, as we believe, cannot tolerate this, question is how hard he'll dare strike back at Christian militias w/o fear of stronger Israeli retaliation he can take

What degree Syrian offensive action would bring Is in?

- (1) Too great an artillery pounding of Christians
 - a. Overflights movement to border
 - b. Air strikes artillery supply -

. Airlift brigade to Beirut

-2-SECRET

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CHART

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(2) If Christians on verge of massacre

March N - thru UN & Palestinians

Risky -

Casualties

Use US equipment

World opinion

Think Syrians attempt limit amount direct conflict - hoping some form mediation - difficult position be likelihood Is open Golan Front if full scale hostilities

Overall Syrian mil position better than '73 in absolute terms - but poorer relative to Israel

5. About best hope for more of same

Semi-anarchy

Between militias

Central gov't too weak to contest

Palestinian state within

Effort rebuild Leb army

-3-S E C R E T

Not much can do

Lebanon: Population Distribution By Religion Officially Declared Population In 1965 SYRIA ____ Maronite ------ 698,000 Greek Orthodox · · · · · 265,000 Greek Catholic 157,000 Armenian Orthodox ·· 111,000 Al Mînă' • Tripoli Shia Muslim ----- 486,000 Shamāl 🗌 Sunni Muslim ------ 480,000 ____ Druze------ 130,000 Others (not shown) ·· 60,000 Total Christian ...1,231,000 Total Muslim1,096,000 Province boundary KILOMETERS 20 MILES 20 . Ba'laba Jüniyah BEIRUT Biqā' Beirut International Airport Jabal District boundary Mediterranean Sea 5 23 9 10 Palestinian 11 enclave 8. Jbeil 9. Kesrouan 10. Metn 11. Baabda 12. Aley 13. Shuf Tyre Janub 14. Sidon 15. Jazzin 16. Zahrani Golan 17. Nabatiyah 1 Akkar Heights 18. Tyre Christian enclave 2. Dunleh 19. Bint Ibeil 3. Tripoli 🦸 20. Marjayoun • ≳∾Hasbaya 4. Zgharta 5. Koura 21. Rashaya UNDOF

6. Besharre

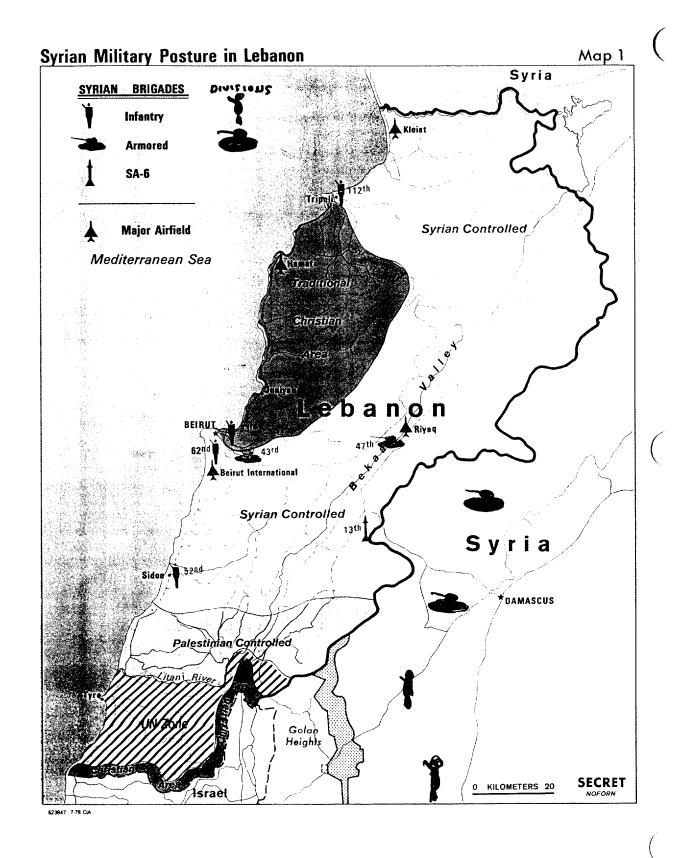
7. Batroun

22 Zahlah

23. Ba'labakk-Hirmil

ISRAEL .

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